A new species of *Asemonea* from Zambia (Araneae: Salticidae: Lyssomaninae)

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A new spider species from Zambia belonging to the poorly-known genus *Asemonea*, is described. It appears to be related to *Asemonea maculata* from the Ivory Coast.

Key words: ***Asemonea*, new species, Africa**

Three genera of the subfamily Lyssomaninae of the family Salticidae are known from the Afrotropical Region: *Asemonea* O.P.-Cambridge, 1869, the closely related *Goleba* Wanless, 1980 and *Pandisus* Simon 1900, the last genus being restricted to Madagascar. *Asemonea* is represented in Africa by 13 species (Platnick 2008). In his revision of the genus, Wanless (1980) recognized nine African species, four additional species were subsequently described by Wesołowska (2001) and Wesołowska & Szüts (2003). Distribution of all of them is poorly known, because these small, often greenish or yellowish spiders living on leaves are only rarely recorded. The majority of species are known only from the type locality.

The paper presents a description of a new *Asemonea* species from Zambia.

***Asemonea cuprea* sp. n.**, Figs 1–7

Diagnosis. The male is distinctive in having bright orange scales covering the eye field and vivid orange hair decorating the antero-lateral half of the abdomen. The palpal organ is characteristic in that the palpal tibia have a long dorsal apophysis and a subtegulum with a unique right-angled shape. The female is distinguished by the very simple structure of epigyne (see Fig. 6).

Relationships. The male of this species resembles *Asemonea maculata* Wanless, 1980 from Ivory Coast in the general structure of the male genitalia.

Etymology. The specific name refers to the colouration of the male.

Type material. Holotype: male, Zambia, near Choma, Wildlives Game Farm, Hunter's Camp, 16°58.957′S, 26°36.973′E, 4.XII.2006, beats, short shrubs, leg. C. Haddad (ARC-Plant Protection Research Institute, National Collection of Arachnida, Pretoria (NCA 2007/537). Paratype: female sampled together with holotype.

Description

Measurements (male/female) (in mm): Carapace length 1.7/1.5, width 1.4/1.1, height 0.7/0.7. Abdomen length 1.5/1.7, width 0.8/0.8. Eye field length 0.6/0.6, anterior width 1.0/1.0, posterior width 0.6/0.7.

Male. Small, delicate spider, general appearance as in Fig. 1. Carapace pear-shaped, longer than wide, moderately high with slightly elevated ocular area, fovea sulciform. Eyes arranged in four rows, as in other lyssomanine spiders, set on well-developed tubercles, eyes of third row relatively large, eye field trapezoid, narrower posteriorly. Clypeus low. Thoracic part of carapace yellow, eye field and clypeus covered with small, bright orange scales, eyes surrounded with black rings (except anterior median ones). Gnathocoxae and labium pale yellow; sternum large cordiform, whitish yellow. Chelicerae with three small teeth on retromargin, and two diminutive teeth on promargin. Abdomen slender, narrower than carapace, generally yellow, with delicate blackish grey pattern composed of two longitudinal lines on anterior part and a few small patches and chevrons posteriorly (Fig. 1). Antero-lateral half of abdomen clothed in vivid orange hairs. Venter whitish. Spinnerets yellow, posteriors elongate with terminal segments blackish. Coxae pale. Legs long and thin, pale yellow with blackish marks on prolateral surfaces of tibiae distally (on tibiae IV marks also at base). Spines numerous, long, pale. Spination of leg I: femur dorsally 0-1-1-2, tibia prolaterally 0-0-1, retrolaterally 0-1-0, ventrally 2-2-2-2-2, metatarsus dorsally 1, prolaterally 1-1-1, retrolaterally 1-0-0, ventrally 2-2-2. Leg hairs pale. Structure of palpal organ complicated, shown in Figs 2–5. Palpal femur with ventral furrow and large, cork-screw apophysis fringed with setae (Fig. 4). Ventral tibial apophysis big; dorsal one

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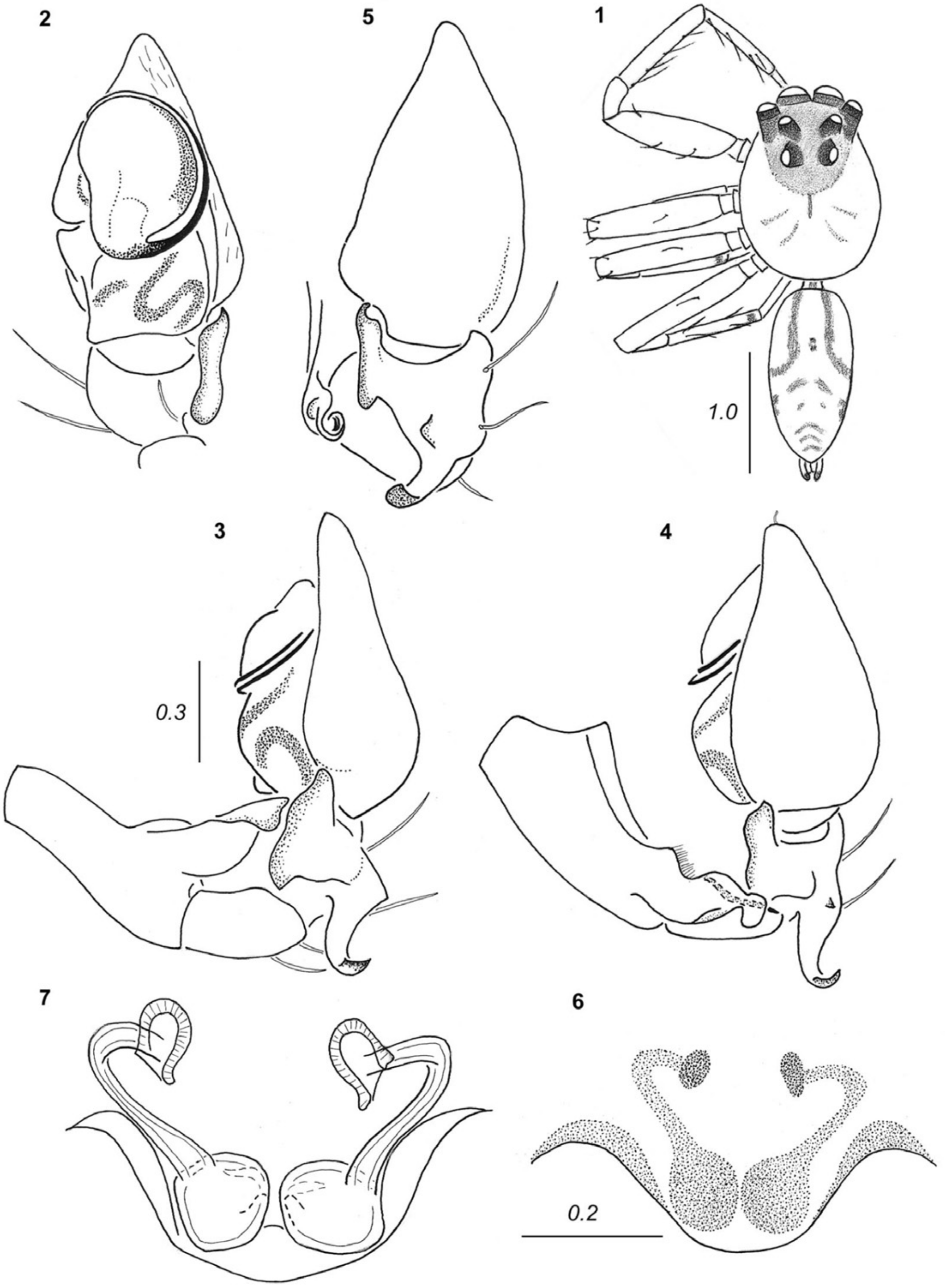

Figs 1–7. *Asemonea cuprea*; **1**, general appearance of male; **2**, palpal organ, ventral view; **3**, palpal organ, lateral view; **4**, palpal organ, dorsolateral view; **5**, palpal organ, dorsal view; **6**, epigyne; **7**, internal structure of epigyne.

long, hooked at tip (Fig. 3). Two long rod-like setae on prolateral side of tibia. Cymbium narrowed apically (Fig. 5). Tegulum rounded, encircled retrolaterally by thin embolus, subtegulum rectangular, spermophore meandering (Fig. 2).

Female. Similar to male in body shape, but carapace narrower. Eye field dark, almost black, thoracic part brown, grading to orange at margins, thin colourless bristles near eyes. Abdominal pattern as in male, but lack orange hairs. Epigyne weakly sclerotized, with two pockets at epigastric furrow (Fig. 6). Internal structure simple (Fig. 7); gonopores hidden in sclerotized 'cups', seminal ducts thin and long, receptacles almost spherical.

Habitat. These individuals were collected on leaves of short shrubs.

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